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Brevities.

. . . Mr. Emile Loubet, formerly President of France, in an article recently published, maintains that the world is steadily marching toward a régime of universal peace, owing to the efforts of those who are working for arbitration and other pacific methods.

. . . The annual debate at the Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter, N. H., was on the question: "*Resolved*, that a further material increase in the United States Navy is desirable." F. R. Barker, S. H. Buck and A. McC. Boal argued for increase; C. H. Weston, F. M. Walsh and P. H. Kruschwitz against it. The latter won handsomely. Among the judges was a colonel.

. . . Following the conclusion of the agreement between France and Germany upon Morocco, France has decorated Prince von Radolin, the German Ambassador at Paris, and Herr von Schoen, the German Foreign Minister, with the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honor. It also conferred on Baron von Langwerth, secretary of the German Legation at Tangier, the Commander's Cross of the Legion.

. . . Ambassador Bryce, in his remarks at the dinner given by the New York City Peace Society in honor of Mr. Root, paid a very unusual tribute to the peace societies and their work, unusual, at least, from men in high government positions. He said: "But I will say that I see one very clear reason why this Peace Society should choose this opportunity for honoring Mr. Root. You of the Peace Society — and the same thing applies to other peace societies in other countries — are always believed to be the salt of the earth. I don't appeal to your own witness for that, but to the citizens and the citizenesses — we must not omit them — of New York. They would agree that the Peace Society of New York and other peace societies of your great cities represent most of what is best, wisest and most progressive in your citizenship."

. . . The Japanese House of Peers has approved the budget voted by the House of Representatives. The budget has followed the newly adopted policy of retrenchment in all departments and effects a saving of about \$178,500,000 in the empire's expenses. A good deal of the saving is in the army and navy budgets. Baron Katsura's ministry came into power on this issue, and he is faithfully applying the policy of retrenchment advocated by him in advance of the election.

. . . President Taft has received a cablegram of congratulations from the Emperor of Japan. He has cabled back his appreciation of the message, and assured the Emperor that it will be his earnest endeavor to maintain in every way the present peaceful relations between the two countries.

. . . Senator Knox, the new Secretary of State, is in hearty sympathy with the idea of an international conference on the conservation of the natural resources of the world, as proposed by President Roosevelt just before his term of office expired. It is expected that the conference, to which all the powers of the world have been invited, will be held at The Hague next September.

. . . The settlement with Venezuela, which was reached in February by Special Commissioner Wm. I. Buchanan, provides that three of the disputes be submitted to the Hague Court; namely, the Claims of the United States and Venezuela Company, those of the Orinoco Steamship Company, and those of the Orinoco Corporation. The New York and Bermudez Asphalt Company controversy was settled without arbitration. The Company pays the government a cash indemnity of \$60,000, to compromise the suit brought against it because of its alleged participation in the Matos revolution, receives possession again of its property in Venezuela, and is to pay the government a minimum revenue of \$20,000 a year. A. F. Jaurett, the American who was expelled from Venezuela by President Castro, was awarded \$3,000 without arbitration.

. . . Mr. Cambon, the French Ambassador at Berlin, has conferred upon Herr von Schoen, the German Foreign Minister, the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor as an indication of France's satisfaction over the Franco-German settlement on Morocco. The German Ambassador at Paris, Prince von Radolin, was simultaneously decorated. This event has created an excellent impression in German political circles.

. . . The Turkish government, which had until recently held aloof and not ratified the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Controversies signed on July 29, 1899, by the first Hague Conference, has, under the régime of the Young Turk Party, made amends for the past, and has just appointed the following members of the Hague Permanent Court of Arbitration: Refik Bey, Minister of Justice; Gabriel Nouradoughian Effendi, Minister of Commerce; Hakki Bey, Turkish Ambassador at Rome; and Georgeades Effendi, Senator.

. . . Ex-President Loubet of France, writing recently in the *Nouvelle Revue* of the growing spirit of fraternity as revealed by the world-wide sympathy shown at the time of the Messina earthquake, asks: "How can the nations which have so eagerly hastened to repair the evils following immediately upon that great calamity combine against one another, and, after aiding each other in this way, how can they reconcile themselves to mutual slaughter? War works havoc such as has been witnessed in Sicily and Calabria. And what can be more horrible than such a catastrophe between nations, inasmuch as it is prompted by politicians and supporters of armies?"

. . . Advices received from Peking tell of the movement to restore the Chinese navy. One hundred million dollars are to be spent for this purpose. Naval ports and docks are to be established, foreign experts engaged as instructors and advisers, and naval colleges established. A naval board has been appointed to work out the details. And so the dreadful plague continues to spread, sparing nobody anywhere.

. . . At a meeting of the New Reform Club in London on March 3, at which Lord Weardale, president of the British Interparliamentary Group, presided, and made a strong plea for reduction in the naval estimates, the following resolutions were adopted:

"*Resolved*, That this meeting records a strong protest against the attempts of certain firms to put pressure on their employees

to join the Territorial Army, and in particular deplores the sanction given by the Minister of War to such pressure as constituting a step toward an indirect compulsion to military service.

"Resolved, That this meeting protests against alarmist attempts to force the government into unnecessary increases of naval expenditure, and in particular against incurring heavy charges in building ships of one particular type, as at once an obstacle to the pursuance of a peaceful and unaggressive foreign policy and an insuperable hindrance to domestic reform."

. . . In Germany military service begins at the age of seventeen and ends at forty-five. Actual service begins at twenty. No man liable to serve can leave home for forty-eight hours without informing the police of the change of address, and special permission has to be granted to quit the country even for a week-end.

. . . During the recent debate on the army estimates in the House of Commons, Sir Ivor Herbert, a Labor Member, declared that "the cry for a reduction of armaments, both in the House and outside, was even more insistent to-day than it was in 1906," when "the Government did make one spasmodic effort towards virtue by reducing the army estimates substantially."

. . . Under the title of "Patriot Dole," the *Friend* of Honolulu has this to say of Charles F. Dole, a member of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society, now on a visit to Hawaii: "Hawaii already knows one of these in the person of its chief citizen. It is glad to welcome another, Rev. Charles Fletcher Dole, D. D., of Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass. Dr. Dole, or, as he prefers to be called, Mr. Dole, is best known to his fellow-countrymen through his books on American citizenship. These have gone into many schools and have taught the children the ideals of the nation. Mr. Dole is also the president of Boston's Twentieth Century Club, a fascinating company of 'cranks,' that is, artificers of tomorrow's civilization. As an advocate of world peace also Mr. Dole is familiarly known to many of the workers in this mighty movement. He will find much to love in our Hawaiian life, and we shall find much to call out our aloha for him as we come to know him face to face."

. . . At the Michigan Peace Oratorical Contest held at University Hall, Ann Arbor, Friday, March 26, the Michigan University debater, Mr. A. H. Reynolds, was declared the winner and received the first prize of \$75. A. A. Odum of Hillsdale College won the second prize of \$50. Mr. Reynolds will represent Michigan at the Interstate Peace Contest at Chicago at the time of the National Peace Congress. A Michigan Peace Oratorical Association was formed at Ann Arbor at the time of the contest, with an Executive Committee consisting of Dean Harvey of Hillsdale College, Professor Schomberger of Olivet College, Professor Woolbert of Albion, Professor Blaisdell of Michigan Agricultural College, and Professor T. C. Trueblood and Mr. Hollister of Michigan University.

. . . The International Peace Festival held under the auspices of the Peace Society of the City of New York, March 24, was a great success. Carnegie Hall was well filled. Mr. Carnegie presided and made an address. An address was also made by Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese Minister. The music, given by representatives of different nations, was fine.

The Causes of International Illwill and War in Our Day.

Address of Hon. Elihu Root, ex-Secretary of State, at the dinner given in his honor by the Peace Society of the City of New York, in the Hotel Astor, New York, February 26.

It seems to me, my friends, that the Peace Society, in asking me to dine with them, has gathered here all the evidences, all the proofs, the demonstration of what it is worth to preserve peace, the faces of my old home, the dear old friends of a lifetime, the children of many a friend who has passed away during my absence from New York,—all this that I see about me is what makes it worth while that peace shall be preserved,—the charm and grace of life, the joy of living, the virtues, the beauty, the nobility, preserved, defended and continued by this modern civilization which substitutes peace for war. We have passed in the development of modern society far from those old days when men fought for the mere joy of fighting. Except here and there an individual and here and there a half-savage community, no one now makes war for the love of war.

But there are causes of war, and I am going to take occasion, in having you here,—so many of you who have not long beards and gray or bald heads, and therefore do not belong properly to a peace society [laughter],—I am going to take occasion, in having you here, to suggest some missionary work in the interests of the society which is giving this dinner, and which it seems to me my old friends have overlooked and evaded.

The work of a peace society, and the work of peace-loving men and women, the work of all those who love home, who desire that mankind shall be enlarged in intelligence and in moral vision, of all those who desire to see science and art, and the graces of life, and sweet charity, and the love of mankind for one another, continue and grow among men,—their work is to aid, not by great demonstration, but by that quiet, that resistless influence which, among great bodies of men, makes up the tendency of mankind, and in the long process of the years moves men from savagery and brutality to peace and brotherhood. [Applause.] It rests with the army and the navy to make aggression and injustice unprofitable and unattractive. It rests with you and with me, with every woman withal who is struggling for the right of suffrage, to exercise the powers that God has already placed in her hands, with every man in the exercise of his duties, political and social, to move the conceptions of an honorable life away from the old ideas of savagery towards the new ideas of civilization, of humanity, that in their progress gradually approximate to the supreme idea of Christianity. [Applause.]

Peace can never be except as it is founded upon justice. [Applause.] It rests with us in our own country to see to it that the idea of justice prevails, and prevails against the declamation of the demagogue, against the interested exhortation of the politician, against the hot temper of the thoughtless and of the inconsiderate. If we would have peace, it is not enough to cry "Peace, peace!" It is essential that we should promote and insist upon the willingness of our country to do justice to all countries of the earth. [Tremendous applause.] In the exercise of those duties in which the Ambassadors of Great Britain, of Brazil and of Japan have played so great a